

## Welcome to the Legislative Update for June 11, 2010

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. *Between legislative sessions, the Legislative Update is provided monthly with a federal focus.* Information provided is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

(**Note:** Please excuse the newsletter template's format issues; we are attempting to resolve them with the assistance of IT.)

### GENERAL OVERVIEW

#### **Budget Information**

The **Joint Legislative Budget Committee** (JLBC) has posted a **Budget Status Update** report for FY 2010. To access the print version, go to:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/BudgetStatus60310.pdf>

The May 2010 **Monthly Fiscal Highlights** from JLBC indicates: "Year-to-date, revenues are \$(35.2) million below forecast." That report is available at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-may-10.pdf>

You can access the full **FY 2011 Appropriations Report** from JLBC at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/11app/FY2011AppropRpt.pdf>

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Between sessions, updates and information on Senate and House members may be found at the Arizona State Legislature's Press Release page at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/PressReleases.asp>

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If you're interested in seeing the legislation tracked by the Council on Aging during the last legislative session, click on the list below:

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24520&listid=40701&print=true>

Note: Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on any of the Council's tracking lists *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic was something that may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council tracked the bills progress.

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If you have a particular perspective to share at any time, you can voice your opinions to: **Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact the Legislator from your area. You can locate your legislator by going to the Arizona State Legislature website <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: How do I find My Legislators or by following the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

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## **FEDERAL LEGISLATION:**

### **H.RES.1342**

#### **Seniors Bill of Rights**

Introduced on May 6, 2010 by Representative Janice D. Schakowsky (IL-9), the resolution has 51 cosponsors.

H.RES.1342 expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the Congress should unwaveringly uphold the dignity and independence of older Americans by supporting efforts that guarantee for them:

- (1) financial security;
- (2) quality and affordable health and long-term care;
- (3) protection from abuse, scams, and exploitation;
- (4) a strong economy now and for future generations; and
- (5) safe and livable communities with adequate housing and transportation options.

On 5/27/2010, H.RES.1342 was referred to House Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.

### **H.R.5275**

#### **Seniors Purchasing Power Protection Act**

Introduced on May 11, 2010 by Representative Joe Sestak (PA-7), the Act:

- directs the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor to prepare and publish a monthly Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers (CPI) that indicates changes over time in expenditures for consumption which are typical for individuals aged 62 years of age or older.
- amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) to use such new CPI in the computation of cost-of-living increases for Social Security and Medicare benefits.

On 5/11/2010, H.R.5275 was referred to House Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor.

Related legislation includes H.R. 2365, H.R. 2429, and H.R. 4193.

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Note: The Senate is expected to vote on **H.R. 4213** which includes an extension of federal funding for AHCCCS.

For specific information on this or any federal legislation, go to the Thomas website: <http://www.thomas.gov/> and enter the bill number or description under Search Bill Summary & Status.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

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#### **Other News:**

##### **From Administration on Aging June 2010 eNews:**

##### ***New CMS Brochure Gives Details on the \$250 Medicare Part D Rebate***

Recently posted to the What's New section of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website is the Closing the Prescription Drug Coverage Gap Brochure, which describes details about the tax-free, one-time check for \$250 for people who enter the Part D donut hole and are not eligible for Medicare Extra Help. The first checks are being mailed June 10 and checks will be mailed monthly after people have entered the coverage gap.

To help fight fraud and protect beneficiaries from potential scams, Medicare is reminding seniors there are no forms to fill out to receive this benefit. Medicare will automatically send a check. The envelope will have the US Department of Health and Human Services symbol on it and will say "Medicare Part D." Beneficiaries don't need to provide any personal information. They don't need to provide any personal information like Medicare, Social Security, or bank account numbers to get the rebate check. They are reminded not to give any personal information to anyone who calls about the \$250 rebate check.

To download a copy of the brochure, go to:

<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11464.pdf>

##### ***HHS to Award \$60 Million in Affordable Care Act Grants***

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently announced the availability of \$60 million in Affordable Care Act grants to states and communities to help individuals and their caregivers better understand and navigate their health and long-term care options. Through this opportunity made possible by the Affordable Care Act HHS' Administration on Aging (AoA) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will work collaboratively to award funds for an integrated approach that focuses on the unique needs of seniors, disabled Americans and their caregivers as they seek health care and long-term care.

Some specific areas of focus will include assisting individuals who are under-served and hard to reach with information about their Medicare and Medicaid benefits, helping older adults and individuals with disabilities live at home or in settings of their choosing with the right supports, assisting people transition from hospital or nursing home stays back into the community, and strengthening linkages between the medical and social service systems.

Funds will be available to states, area agencies on aging (AAA's), State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs) and Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs). The application deadline is Friday, July 30, 2010. Grants will be awarded in September 2010. The Program Announcement can be viewed at

<http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Grants/Funding/index.aspx> or [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

Note: the June issue of AoA eNews is available at:

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Enews/CurrentNewsLetter.pdf](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Enews/CurrentNewsLetter.pdf)

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The **National Center on Senior Transportation's** report *Transportation: The Silent Need; Results of a National Survey with Area Agencies on Aging* can be accessed at:

[http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/DocServer/Transportation\\_TheSilentNeed.pdf?docID=138743](http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/DocServer/Transportation_TheSilentNeed.pdf?docID=138743)

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**From the June 2, 2010 Department of Labor *Funding Opportunities Available* posting:**

**Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program**

**National Technical Assistance Center Cooperative Agreement**

The Veterans' Employment and Training Service has announced a cooperative agreement competition for funds to maintain and expand the National Technical Assistance Center for the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program to include the Homeless Female and Homeless Veterans with Families Program and the Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program. These grant programs provide services to assist homeless veterans find meaningful employment and develop effective service delivery systems to address the complex problems facing homeless veterans. This cooperative agreement would provide general technical assistance on Veterans homelessness programs and issues to existing and potential grantees and their partners under these grant programs. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, including faith-based and community organizations. The competition will close on June 24, 2010. To see the full announcement visit:

<http://www.dol.gov/vets> .

### **Occupational Safety and Health Administration Susan Harwood Training Grants**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced the availability of \$8 million in competitive safety and health training grants to assist nonprofit organizations in developing their capacity to provide occupational safety and health training, education and other related services to workers and employers. Two types of Capacity Building grant awards may be made: 1) Pilot grants and 2) Developmental grants. Pilot grants will assist organizations who need time to assess needs and formulate a plan before moving ahead with a full scale safety and health education program. Developmental grants will assist organizations that have already established the capacity to provide occupational safety and health training and related assistance to their constituents and are seeking to expand and develop their capacity to offer these services. The competition will close on July 2, 2010. The full grant solicitation is available at: <http://www.grants.gov> ; search by Funding Opportunity Number SHTG-FY-10-01.

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### **Toolkit for Serving Diverse Communities**

Administration on Aging (AoA) recently announced a toolkit that provides the Aging Network and its partners with a replicable and user-friendly method for providing services for any diverse community. To access the toolkit:

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA\\_Programs/Tools\\_Resources/DOCS/AoA\\_DiversityToolkit\\_full.pdf](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/Tools_Resources/DOCS/AoA_DiversityToolkit_full.pdf)

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**Information & Resources:**

**WHAT: Elder Abuse Prevention Conference**

**WHEN: Tuesday, June 15, 2010; 9 am - 3 pm;** Manor House, Safford, Arizona;  
space is limited, must be registered to attend.

For more information: Call SEACUS at 928-428-3229

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/Safford061510.pdf>

**WHAT: "Ask the Experts"** presented by MEAPA (Maricopa Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance) and the Area Agency on Aging, Region One

**WHEN: Tuesday, June 15, 2010**

To be held at two Phoenix locations as posted on the flier provided at this link:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/AskTheExpertsFlyer.pdf>

**WHAT: Build Strong Bones for a Lifetime;** University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Presents Bone Builders Physical Activity Program

**WHEN: Wednesday, August 4, 2010 12:30 - 4:00 pm and Thursday, August 5, 2010 8:30 am - 3:30 pm;** UA Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix, Arizona 85040

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/BBPAPTrainingFlier.pdf>

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If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov) . Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

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**Note: Now that the 2nd Regular Session has ended, the Legislative Update is being provided monthly.**

**Thank you! Have a good summer!**

**~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging**